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CARD OF THE DAY - AUGUST, 2005

Posted in **Feature** on August 1, 2005



By Wizards of the Coast

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Card of the Day - mercredi 31 août 2005



Ambassador Laquatus

Torment rare. A mysterious outcast from the Kingdom of Merfolk, Ambassador Laquatus figures very prominently in the *Odyssey* block storyline, where he begins as an agent of Emperor Aboshan. Just how much of an outcast is he? He's the only Merfolk card in the entire block!

Card of the Day - mardi 30 août 2005



Cardpecker

Unhinged common. The concept behind this card is that the bird keeps coming back to peck at your cards whenever the opponent touches the table. Note that in the art, not only do the pictured cards have holes pecked into them, but so does the card Cardpecker itself! *Unhinged* is also notable as the set that inspired the use of pseudo-keywords. (See Aaron Forsythe's *The Spoken Word* for more on this.)

Card of the Day - lundi 29 août 2005



Hurricane

Revised uncommon. Because early production of the *Revised* set encountered a number of printing issues, a new printing was ordered, which came to be known as

Summer Magic. Unfortunately, Summer Magic also ended up having some issues. The most famous example is Hurricane, which was printed with a blue border! (Click here to see an example.)

Card of the Day - vendredi 26 août 2005



Lightning Greaves

Mirrodin uncommon. During early equipment conceptualization, the designers looked through all kinds of different armor and items to find areas that hadn't been explored much by **Magic** yet. It turned out that only Sandals of Abdallah had really dealt with footwear, which inspired this card, named "Boots of Speed" in design.

Card of the Day - jeudi 25 août 2005



Skullclamp

Darksteel uncommon. During the early design process of equipment, the designers searched for old enchant creature cards with effects that might be more interesting if the effect was reusable. Skullclamp started out as an equipment version of Bequeathal, but it was the +1/-1 clause that was added later which led to most of the card's problems.

Card of the Day - mercredi 24 août 2005



Scathe Zombies

Ninth Edition common. The zombies may be simple, they may be plain, but they also hold the title of "longest running flavor text." Coleridge's haunting lines are the only

flavor text to survive unchanged from *Alpha* through *Ninth Edition*.

Card of the Day - mardi 23 août 2005



Shuriken

Betrayers of Kamigawa uncommon. The word "shuriken" can refer to a number of thrown weapons, from the traditional star to a knife or spike. That's why the art doesn't look like what many people think of as a shuriken, even though it would hurt just as much getting one of these thrown at you.

Card of the Day - lundi 22 août 2005



Paradise Mantle

Fifth Dawn uncommon. Once it was decided that *Fifth Dawn* would have the sunburst theme, extra effort was made not only to include mana fixing in that set (like this card) but also in *Darksteel* as well. Among other changes to prepare for *Fifth Dawn*, *Darksteel Ingot* was moved to common (from uncommon) and *Vedalken Engineer's* ability was changed to produce colored mana.

Card of the Day - vendredi 19 août 2005



Presence of the Master

Legends uncommon. This is one of a few **Magic** cards whose illustration shows a real-world figure (in this case Albert Einstein).

Card of the Day - jeudi 18 août 2005



Gift of Estates

Ninth Edition uncommon. While picking cards for *Ninth Edition*, Aaron Forsythe wanted to include Tithe, but that card turned out to be on the Reserved List. Looking back through other sets, Aaron found this card, which had a similar effect. Like many land-searching spells, this one (originally from *Portal*) is worded so that it can find even non-basic Plains cards, something you may want to keep in mind when you read today's Arcana...

Card of the Day - mercredi 17 août 2005



Psionic Gift

Odyssey common. This was a reprint of Hermetic Study, from *Urza's Saga*. It was added to *Odyssey* with a non-storyline-specific name with the likely intent of adding it to an upcoming core set (a process called "promotion" by R&D). However, it was right about this time that R&D reexamined the color pie and decided that this effect made much more sense for red's set of abilities, so Psionic Gift never managed to make the jump to white border.

Card of the Day - mardi 16 août 2005



Gifts Ungiven

Champions of Kamigawa rare. Many players think of Fact or Fiction when they first see Gifts Ungiven, as both instants share the same casting cost and feature an often-agonizing choice for the opponent. However, this was actually inspired by a much older card: Intuition, from *Tempest*.

Card of the Day - lundi 15 août 2005



Gift of the Woods

Alliances common. Released in 1996, the *Alliances* expansion was the last set to have multiple art versions for cards. The practice was discontinued (except in special circumstances, like Brothers Yamazaki) because of just how strongly players identify cards by their art. (Click [here](#) to see the other version of Gift of the Woods.)

Card of the Day - vendredi 12 août 2005



Overabundance

Invasion rare. Occasionally **Magic** cards are created by simply combining the effects of two separate (but related) cards. In this case, the designers combined Mana Flare

(which, even back then, they felt made more sense as a green card) with the red card Manabarbs.

Card of the Day - jeudi 11 août 2005



Heroes' Reunion

Invasion uncommon. Some time back, Wizards commissioned a market research study wherein players were given "godbooks" containing all **Magic** cards created so far, and asked to pick their favorites. The results? Molimo, Maro-Sorcerer and Heroes' Reunion took top honors. (Something to keep in mind next time you hear someone claim that **Magic** players don't like life gain!)

Card of the Day - mercredi 10 août 2005



Dromar, the Banisher

Invasion rare. This card's name was nearly changed, since "banish" is slang in **Magic** for effects like Dark Banishing. Though Dromar's effect isn't really a banishing in that sense, the name managed to make it through to print.

Card of the Day - mardi 9 août 2005



Fertile Ground

Invasion common. This card was inspired by the relationship between Llanowar Elves and Birds of Paradise. By adding a drawback (in this case an extra mana in the cost) to green staple Wild Growth, Fertile Ground gained the ability to generate any color of mana rather than just

. This then led to the creation of Utopia Tree, which never managed to catch on much, probably in large part because Birds of Paradise was always around to show it up.

Card of the Day - lundi 8 août 2005



Hanna, Ship's Navigator

Invasion rare. *Antiquities* was Mark Rosewater's favorite expansion for years, and his favorite card was Argivian Archaeologist. Since joining the company as a designer he'd been looking for a chance to bring the player favorite back in some fashion, and when he realized that the Weatherlight Saga character Hanna was an engineer the opportunity was too good to pass up.

Card of the Day - vendredi 5 août 2005



Booby Trap

Ninth Edition rare. This card first appeared in *Tempest*, but only by chance! Originally that slot was supposed to go to Letter Bomb. However, after the art had been delivered the rules team nixed Letter Bomb because it involved putting a card into the other player's deck, something that wasn't acceptable for tournament magic. Booby Trap was designed to fill the slot and still fit the art, and Letter Bomb eventually made it into print in *Unhinged*.

Card of the Day - jeudi 4 août 2005



Marble Titan

Ninth Edition rare. Marble Titan was designed for *Tempest* by Richard Garfield. Originally just one member of an entire race of creatures that had this same ability, none of the other cards made it into the set.

Card of the Day - mercredi 3 août 2005



Blinking Spirit

Ice Age rare. The original version of this card caused a lot of confusion because many players assumed it had flying due to the card's art. Though Blinking Spirit caught a lot of flack for this, Whippoowill from *The Dark* was even worse, as it has wings and is even in the act of flying!

Card of the Day - mardi 2 août 2005



Death Pits of Rath

Ninth Edition rare. Several people asked why this card didn't show up in our feature article series promoting the new art of *Ninth Edition*. The reason is that this isn't actually new art! This art is from the Chinese *Eighth Edition* version of the card, commissioned because Chinese cards cannot depict human skeletons (see this Arcana for more).

Card of the Day - lundi 1 août 2005



Battle of Wits

Ninth Edition rare. Battle of Wits was part of a five-card alternate win condition cycle along with Test of Endurance, Mortal Combat, Epic Struggle, and Chance Encounter.

Occasionally a card makes it into the core set that was part of a cycle, but none of the other cycle members get promoted (see Serra's Embrace).

Posted in **Feature** on August 1, 2005

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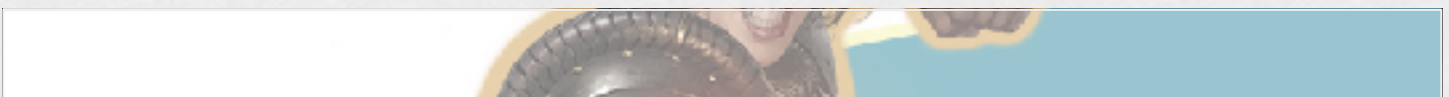
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